SEVIS Batch Questions

This document contains a list of questions that were asked at the June 13, 2002 SEVIS Technical Conference and those that have been forwarded to the SEVIS team by representatives from university IT departments and software vendors. Questions will be added to this document as they are received.

No.	QUESTION	RESPONSE
1.	At a session at the University of Minnesota on 5/20/02, we were told SEVIS would accommodate single-name individuals but specs indicate that Last name and first name are required. Will this change?	SEVIS does accommodate single-name individuals. The last name is required. The first name is optional.
2.	Is there a way to send test transactions? What procedures should be followed to obtain approval to perform batch testing?	The SEVIS Batch testing process is being finalized, and the procedures will be posted on the INS Website when the procedures have been established.
3.	Once the POE is using SEVIS and presumably entering the I-94 admissions number, date, etc., into SEVIS, will the school be able to download that data into our school databases?	The download results provided by SEVIS reflect the information defined in the transaction log. The INS is reviewing possible ways to permit a school or program sponsor to download their data from SEVIS. This functionality would be incorporated into a future release of SEVIS.
4.	Can schools generate their own reports from data on SEVIS? Can we download our data and access it locally for reports?	Schools are free to run reports on local SEVIS-related data. Pre-defined reports are also available through SEVIS Real-Time Interactive (RTI). The SEVIS Batch Interface will not permit institutions to request reports.
5.	Can we use the batch interface for upload from SEVIS to our system?	The SEVIS Batch Interface can be used to upload information on students or exchange visitors into SEVIS and to download the results of the processing of that information. The INS is reviewing possible ways to permit a school or program sponsor to download their data from SEVIS. This functionality would be incorporated into a future release of SEVIS.
6.	How does an institution request RTI data download?	The capability to request a download of SEVIS data submitted through RTI is not currently included in the planned functionality of the SEVIS batch interface. The INS is reviewing this functionality for possible inclusion in a future release.
7.	Are you going to provide XSD files or do we have to create them?	INS has provided the XML Schemas and will notify the schools and program sponsors when those schemas change. XML schema information will be made available on the INS website.

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8.	Will the I-20 forms be returned to us as a single file or as separate files for each student?	The I-20 and DS-2019 forms will be returned as separate files for each student or exchange visitor.
9.	What will the naming conventions be for the PDF files?	Each I-20/DS-2019 form will be provided in a separate PDF file. The files will be zipped into a single zip file to reduce file size. The name of each PDF file will be unique for the particular batch process completed. The file will be automatically generated using a random file name generation process. The naming convention for the zipped file is "schoolcode_batchid.zip".
10.	How will we know when the download file will be available?	Download files will be made available at 9:00am EST each weekday morning, Monday through Friday., following an upload.
11.	In the state look-up table Tennessee is abbreviated, as "TE" the usual code is "TN."	The abbreviation for Tennessee will be "TN."
12.	How does it work with the SEVIS ID if the student is trying to enter and is accepted at different schools? Will different IDs be given? How do you determine that it is the same individual? Is the SEVIS ID unique to the institution or individual or just the individual? In other words, does the SEVIS ID remain the same if the individual transfers to the other institution? If the ID is unique to the individual, what is the matching logic SEVIS uses?	The SEVIS ID is unique to the individual and the SEVIS ID transfers with the individual if the individual is transferred within SEVIS. Currently, it is possible in certain situations for the same individual to temporarily have multiple SEVIS IDs. For example, if an individual applies for admission to multiple schools or programs, the individual would have multiple records in SEVIS. Once the individual is granted a visa, the unused I-20 or DS-2019 records will be invalidated. The logic used to identify duplicate records is a comparison of Family Name, Gender, Date of Birth, Country of Birth, and Country of Citizenship.
13.	What are the file naming convention for the transaction log file and the zip file?	The transaction log will be an XML file and will have an extension of .xml. The naming convention is "schoolcode_batchid_transaction_log.xml". The naming convention for the zipped file is "schoolcode_batchid.zip".
14.	What is the regulation law for how frequently batches must be sent?	There is no regulation on how frequently batches must be sent. However, institutions must report events and updates as defined in the regulations.
15.	The note for student updates indicates that the SEVIS schema allows for only one element update at a time PG d-4 ICD, PGf-3 ICD --- Same for exchange visitor	That note should say one update "type," not one update element. Examples of different update "types" include Update Financial Information, Register Student, Defer Attendance, etc.
16.	Where in the interface control document are the two "optional school defined" fields defined for transaction log? They are not included on page H-1 (Student Transaction log data elements schema).	The SEVIS Batch Interface Control Document has been updated to add the two school defined fields to the transaction log schema.

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17.	What is the length and format of the batch ID?	The Batch ID must be a number that incrementally increases with each SEVIS Batch submission. This enforces each Batch ID from the same school to be unique. The length is limited to 14 characters.
18.	What does “Numeric 9, 2” mean?	This notation would translate to 123456789.12
19.	We are supposed to send create-update student data XML and create-update EV data XML during uploading. Can we send four XML files including: Create student XML Update student XML Create EV XML Update EV XML	This is perfectly acceptable. It is acceptable to send Create Student and Update Student records in the same file or in separate files. However, student records and exchange visitor records must be sent in separate files, since each file must be associated with one specific school code or program ID. Also, create files should always be sent before update files.
20.	Electronic versions of lookup tables: how are they obtained? And how are we notified of changes?	Electronic versions of the lookup tables will be made available on the INS Website. Updates to these tables will also be posted to this site. Organizations should periodically check the INS Website to obtain updates regarding SEVIS information. Once SEVIS Batch is put into production, the points of contact at the registered organizations will be notified via e-mail
21.	How is a receipt of upload confirmed?	SEVIS will provide a confirmation in the form of XML in the body of the HTTP Response to the upload HTTP POST.
22.	How do we reprint if there are no data changes (for example, lost I-20)? How should we request a reprint of a form from SEVIS?	Each I-20 or DS-2019 PDF file provided should only be printed once. This is part of the INS regulations for institutions. If you need to print the form again for any reason, you should request a new one through SEVIS. Send a reprint request record through SEVIS Batch for that SEVIS ID. When requesting a reprint, you also indicate the re-print reason (lost, stolen, etc.). Alternatively, you may reprint the form by accessing SEVIS RTI.
23.	Can forms updated in real-time be printed via batch?	Data submitted through RTI can be printed through RTI. If necessary, a reprint request would have to be submitted through batch to print a form containing data updated in RTI.
24.	Is schema available electronically?	An electronic version of the schemas is available on the INS website. Updates to the schema will also be posted to this site.
25.	When will POEs be online with SEVIS? It sounded like the date of entry at the POE was required by the institution but the specs say it is optional. Please clarify.	Entry of the POE entrance information by the institution is optional. In a future release, SEVIS will receive this information directly from the POEs.

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26.	Are the SEVIS table.xsd codes that are in the ICD final? The subj./field codes for the EV's are in the process of being changed. Are these changes reflected in the version of the ICD or will there be subsequent changes in the ICD to reflect these new codes?	The Department of State has agreed to utilize CIP 200 codes for exchange visitors. The table information in the ICD has been updated in the latest version of the ICD (9/20/02), which is available on the INS website. Since the SEVIS Code tables are subject to change, reference the INS website for updates.
27.	Since the business rules are driven by INS regulations, and the current SEVIS regulations are proposed rule, would not any changes in the proposed rules as the result of public comments necessitate parallel changes in the business rules of the system? Would this not potentially delay implementation?	Changes to regulations as a result of public comment will be incorporated into SEVIS. These changes should not delay implementation of SEVIS Batch.
28.	Two optional user-defined fields are provided in the transaction log. How are they defined and what might they contain? There does not seem to be any corresponding data fields on the upload side?	The two optional fields may contain information used by the institutions as unique identifiers of their students and/or exchange visitors. These are fields provided by the institution in the upload file and they are optional. These fields are included in the schemas in the updated ICD.
29.	Explain further the digital certificate granted by VeriSign. Do end users have to contact VeriSign?	Institutions wishing to use the SEVIS Batch interface must procure a Class 1 digital certificate directly from VeriSign. For information on the function and use of digital certificates, review information provided at www.verisign.com.
30.	Can we use a different certificate provider other than VeriSign? For example, Thawte?	SEVIS will accept digital certificates from Verisign only.
31.	Is the digital certificate a generic VeriSign certificate or is it one that is related to the SEVIS project?	The VeriSign digital certificate is a generic VeriSign certificate and is not related directly to the SEVIS project.
32.	Can one digital certificate be allowed more than one user ID?	The digital certificate must be associated with the Principal Designated School Official login or Responsible Officer/Alternate Responsible Officer login for the institution. The same digital certificate may be used for both student and exchange visitor transactions if the institution is approved for F, M, and J programs.
33.	In our scenario for batch processing, when we upload multiple separate ELS center files to SEVIS from PHQ how many digital certificates from VeriSign should we have?	The requirement is that each time a file is uploaded, the connection must include the same digital certificate that was provided at Batch Registration. Since some campuses (with their own 15-digit school code) may transmit their files from a machine at a main campus, it is acceptable for different campuses of a school to use the same digital certificate.

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34.	The Post-secondary Electronic Standards Council (PESC) has already developed a schema for post-secondary education to standardize the metadata for common elements. PESC has involved all of the major vendors in higher Ed. Institutions, the Department of Education and other interested parties to agree on a common format. Why hasn't the INS chosen to work with PESC and utilize the schema that has already been developed for higher ED?	The INS met with PESC and has incorporated some changes. SEVIS must conform to INS and DOJ enterprise architecture and naming conventions. There are few tools for such conversion between schemas.
35.	Why not use the date in the HTTP header to compare the date to the transaction entered in real-time interactive (RTI) so that one record processed in both systems on the same day is not overwritten?	The transaction log provided after processing a batch data file includes the date and time that each individual record was processed by SEVIS. Institutions are free to use both SEVIS RTI and the SEVIS Batch interface to update their information in SEVIS. Managing which records are updated through SEVIS RTI or through the SEVIS Batch interface is the responsibility of the institution.
36.	Are there any recommended XML generators/parsers?	There are several XML parsers available, many of which are free of cost. Organizations must determine the parser that best fits their selected system design. Common resources for these technologies include www.w3c.org and www.apache.org.
37.	How soon can the vendors test their product? (Can SEVIS distribute test software)? To what extent will they be able to test?	A test site will be available to institutions with valid SEVIS user IDs and passwords. Vendors will have access to the SEVIS test facility to test their applications.
38.	Are there any clearinghouse services available to process SEVIS data?	No. Only approved schools and program sponsors will be permitted to provide student data and exchange visitor data to SEVIS.
39.	Each user system requires a VeriSign digital certificate. As a system vendor can I host multiple user systems on the one system with multiple VeriSign certificates?	Only approved schools and program sponsors will be permitted to access SEVIS. A vendor may build a system for an institution, but the actual process of sending data to SEVIS, whether it's online or through batch, may only be done by an approved school or program.
40.	The SEVIS system seems to be student based. How are multiple course enrollments handled for the same student?	A student can be concurrently enrolled in two schools or programs, but the school issuing the degree must maintain and update the student's record. For more information, please reference INS regulations pertaining to concurrent enrollment..
41.	How will SEVIS match up exchange visitors or students that we think are new (without SEVIS IDs) but are already in SEVIS from another institution or program? If we mess up and try resending files again that have already been processed (new students), what would happen? Would these all be duplicate records?	SEVIS does verify identifying information in order to prevent the creation of two or more SEVIS IDs for the same individual. In certain scenarios, it is possible for the same student to temporarily have multiple SEVIS IDs assigned, although SEVIS is planning to address this in a subsequent release.

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42.	If a particular institution is both a school and program sponsor is the school code in the HTTP request line different than the sponsor ID?	If an institution is approved to issue I-20s and DS-2019s, the institution would have both a 15-character school code and a 9-character program sponsor number. In this case, the institution would send their F and M student information in one file with the school code, and the J program information in another file with their program number.
43.	Should each institution download the SEVIS schemas or will they be available on a 24 X 7 server?	The schemas are available on the INS website. It is advised that institutions download the schemas and check for updates to the schemas on a periodic basis.
44.	Why is batch processing postponed until midnight? Why can't the response to the HTTP post for upload be the zip file?	Processing the records involves specific business logic and preparation of the download results. Processing of batch data during non-peak hours is a common practice used to maximize the performance of the system during peak hours.
45.	The XML schema specifies a "choice" of elements, for example "complete program", "terminate student", etc. During the Q&A, it was stated that each of these updates requires a separate request record. Please clarify what the XML document would look like.	This is correct. Each "update type" (or choice) requires specific data elements, and therefore will be separate request records. Examples of different update "types" include Update Financial Information, Register Student, Defer Attendance, etc. Sample data files will be provided in the future.
46.	Will we receive any unsolicited responses in the batch transmission (e.g. student I-20s and visa revoked)?	No. Each response from the batch interface will be the result of an upload from the institution.
47.	Pages K15 and K34 reference the same table name. What is the actual name and description of the table on page K34?	The table on page K-34 represents the types of positions (not subject fields) for exchange visitors. This has been updated in the ICD dated August 8, 2002.
48.	Why are there 3 US addresses (pg D-2, D-6, and D-7) and 3 foreign addresses in the create/update record?	Data elements on page D-2 are used when creating a new student. Addresses on pages D-6 and D-7 are used for specific update events (in this case, Register Student and Update Personal Information).
49.	Admissions number conflicts in ICD: See page D6 – Port of Entry-undefined data link, numeric CIPRIS admission numbers have characters.	Please refer to the updated ICD dated 9/20/02 for the correct format of these fields.

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50.	Has a date been established for the conversion of all F, M, and J information to SEVIS? If not, is it expected that the create for a given foreign national student is sent when the first change to information after mandatory compliance date that requires an I-20 or DS-2019 report to be printed is sent?	Once a school begins using SEVIS, all students being issued an I-20 for initial attendance must have a SEVIS student record created and must have an I-20 issued from SEVIS. This should not be a problem for batch users. Once a school begins using SEVIS, all currently enrolled students that need a new I-20 for any reason (not including travel authorization that can be endorsed on a current valid I-20) must have a SEVIS record created and must be issued that new I-20 from SEVIS. The record is created in the same way that any new SEVIS record is created, except that Field #3 (I-20 issuance reason) must indicate either 1) "continuing student" [currently enrolled, in-status student that is having a SEVIS record created for first time] or 2) “reinstatement" [currently enrolled or transferring student that is out of status and that needs an I-20 created to apply for reinstatement]. In the case of a record created for a continuing student, the system will automatically put the student in active status. In order to do this, the record creation process must include registration information. Finally, all students, regardless of whether they need a new I-20 or not, must have a SEVIS student record no more than 30 days after the registration deadline of the term/ session following the mandatory compliance date, or October 30, whichever is later. The same complications with creating a record for a continuing student still apply. Current proposed regulations require all current students to be entered into SEVIS by the next academic term following the mandatory compliance date.
51.	The Department of State has indicated the fields are changing, is the field code list you have in the ICD the current codes or the new codes?	The field codes included in the SEVIS Batch Interface Control Document are current as of the date of the document. As these codes change, the information will be made available on the INS Website. Currently, the Department of State has agreed to use CIP 2000 codes. Any future changes will be posted on the INS website.
52.	Can there be a “last updated” field that denotes the batch ID and time/date it occurred?	Each record in the transaction log will include a field containing the date/time that the record was processed by SEVIS.
53.	Can we download the schema lookup table in ASCII format?	Yes. The tables will be available in ASCII format from the INS Website in the near future.
54.	If using RTI do we need to use the digital certificate?	No. Digital Certificates are only required when using the batch interface. RTI requires a valid login and password.

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55.	Many of our foreign students are dually enrolled in our school and another. The school who issues the I-20 is responsible for reporting on that student. What responsibility does "the junior partner" school have since they are not recorded on the create/update transaction? How do they register the student? What if the student drops out of either school, what is to be done with respect to the "update" transaction?	The school issuing the I-20 (host school) is responsible for updating SEVIS regarding the student's status. The student can be full time at the "partner" school, even if the student is not full time at the host school. If the student drops out of the host school, they are terminated if they don't officially transfer. If they drop out of the "partner" school, the student must resume full time study at the host school.
56.	Will data submitted through RTI be sent back to colleges in XML format and become part of a SEVIS XML file?	Data submitted through RTI is available for viewing in RTI. The INS is reviewing possible ways to incorporate functionality that will enable an institution to obtain their data submitted through RTI in a Batch download.
57.	How can schools keep their country codes accurate and current to avoid rejected batches from INS?	Monitor the INS Website for updates to code tables and schemas.
58.	Are the country codes in the interface control document current and accurate?	The country codes have been updated in the new ICD to be published on the INS Website. SEVIS country codes are listed in the Federal Information Processing System (FIPS) No. 10.
59.	Please identify fields only processed through real time interactive.	The ICD contains a list of all possible updates to a student record, and includes which update types may be submitted through the batch interface or only through RTI. RTI can accept all update types.
60.	Are the country codes consistent with a standard set (i.e. ISO 3166) universal postal union?	The country codes are the U.S. Federal Information Processing Standard (FIPS) No. 10.
61.	Data retention requirements-what will need to be retained and for what timeframe?	The regulations provide guidelines on retention of student records by the schools. The INS follows the National Archives Act.
62.	The foreign postal code is defined as numeric nine digits. This is not sufficient-must be at least thirteen characters and alphanumeric. Will this be changed?	The foreign postal code is now defined as a maximum of 20 characters and may be alphanumeric. This has been updated in the ICD posted on 9/20/02.
63.	Is today's (6/13/02) "technical specification" final?	No. The ICD dated June 13, 2002 was provided to the institutions to give as much information as possible while the interface is being finalized. The technical specifications have been updated and a new version dated September 20, 2002 has been posted on the INS website.

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64.	Is it necessary to send all the data in addition to the fields updated or can we send only the "header," "SEVIS-ID" of the data that has changed when a record for a student is updated.	The SEVIS XML schemas define the required and optional fields for each create and update type. Institutions must provide all required fields for each create or update type. It is not necessary to send all student data for every term. The SEVIS XML schemas define which fields are required based on the type of update. For example, when extending the program for a student, you would simply include the header information, SEVIS ID, New Program End Date, and an explanation of the circumstances.
65.	The appendix lists two tables S & Z both called SEV_LK_PROG_SUBJECT. One is a 4-character field and the other is a 3-character field. They are both listed as being used in the major/minor areas of study for students. The primary major, secondary major and minor all have a data length of 2. Primary major is a required field, no reference to which codes to use. Is there an error in the ICD?	The title of the Table Z is incorrect. Table Z (now Table Y in the ICD dated August 8, 2002) represents the types of positions (not subject fields) for exchange visitors. This has been updated in the new ICD. Table S is the table to be used for Major/Minor. Note that this table has also been updated in the new ICD.
66.	Can vendors get on the test release notification list?	Release notices will be posted on the INS Website.
67.	The U.S. address is required to create a student but is unknown at that time. How does that get handled?	The U.S. address is not a required field on an initial I-20 (create student). The U.S. address is a required field at time of registration notification.
68.	Can a school/Program Sponsor send multiple transmissions in one day?	Yes. There is no limit on the number of transmissions per day. There is a limit of 250 records per batch file.
69.	Keeping downloaded files for 48 hours is problematic. Will you consider longer time?	The Batch Process results will be available for 96 hours from the date the file is made available for download.
70.	Is it accurate that an entire batch can be rejected if XML is not valid and individual records can be kicked out if they don't meet the business rules?	That is correct.
71.	What if you don't download and print an I-20 within 7 days? How do you go about getting it back?	In this case, you may perform a reprint request through SEVIS RTI or through the SEVIS Batch interface.
72.	Can documents (I-20s, DS 2019) be requested through RTI by an official (DSO/RO) different from the one included in an earlier batch create? For example, I would like to handle batch processing at the central office, but let officials request the documents for their location.	Yes, documents can be requested through RTI with a different official that the one included in an earlier batch create. Any authorized Principal Designated School Official (PDSO), Designated School Official (DSO), Responsible Officer (RO), or Alternate Responsible Officer (ARO) may access the student or exchange visitor records at that institution to view, update, or print forms.
73.	Is the EduLevel supposed to be the student's current education level, or the degree they are pursuing?	This field represents the education level the student is seeking (i.e., primary, bachelors, doctorate, etc.)

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74.	Length of Study in the Educational Info structure is defined as a numeric field with a length of 10 in the create structure and a length of 5 in the update. Which should it be? Either length (10 or 5) seems a bit large for a field that is defined as "Length of study in months", so could I also get some clarification on what should be going into that field?	In the ICD dated 9/20/02, the maximum length for the length of study field is 2 digits. This is the normal length of study for that student (in number of months).
75.	The PrimaryMajor, SecondaryMajor, and Minor fields are defined with a length of 2 in the Educational Info create structure, but the SEV_LK_PROG_SUBJECT table (labeled as Table S, Subject Code for Exchange Visitors) is supposed to be used to populate these fields for students according to the note associated with this table. The values in that table are 4 digits, so are there other tables to be used for these fields or should they have been defined with a data length of 4? (Note however, that the same note is listed on Table Z - simply titled Subject/Fields, which is defined with a data length of 3. These values seem to only apply to exchange visitors, and would not be appropriate for assignment as Major/Minor values.). Also, in the EditProgram update structure, NewPrimaryMajor, NewSecondaryMajor, and NewMinor have Data Definitions of "Degree code." I'm assuming these all should eventually have the same definitions as the create structures, correct?	The Major and Minor tables have been updated, and the new field length for these fields is 7. These codes are CIP 2000 from the Department of Education.
76.	The Degree Codes defined in the SEV_LK_DEGREE table do not seem to be included in any of the XML transactions. Is Degree Code supposed to be provided in a transaction?	No. This table has been removed from the ICD dated 9/20/02.
77.	In the POEntryInfo update structure, there are several fields listed without data lengths (these are the fields related to passport, visa, admission number, etc.). When will these field lengths be defined?	These field lengths are defined in the ICD dated 9/20/02 available on the INS website.
78.	In regard to the field VisaIssuingCntry in the POEntryInfo update structure, how is this going to be used? Visas for international students coming to the US are all issued by the US, so is this actually the country of the embassy issuing the visa?	The VisaIssuingCntry field refers to the Department of State Visa Issuing Post (not necessarily country) where the visa was issued. This table will be included in the ICD dated 9/20/02.
79.	Is the data length of Academic Term in the StudentFinancial structure is defined as 3 numeric, and is described as "The number of months in an academic term"? A 3-digit numeric field seems rather large for this use - is this correct? If so, is the definition correct?	Yes, the length of 3 is correct.
80.	The data definition for the Program Number in the EV BatchID structure appears to be incorrect. This is supposed to be the Program Number for the EV Program and not a transaction identifier, correct?	Correct. The program number is assigned by SEVIS and has 9 characters (including dashes) with the following format X-9-99999. For example, a program number may be P-1-00004.

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81.	There is a Status field defined in the create EV-BiologicInfo structure. The possible values listed in the Data Definition are: Active, Inactive, Terminated, Completed, and Cancelled. How is this used on a Create transaction?	Please disregard this field. It has been removed in the ICD dated 9/20/02.
82.	There is a Visa field defined in the create EV-BiologicInfo structure. The only possible value for an exchange visitor appears to be a J-1. Would any other value ever be passed in this field in the transaction? If so, when?	That is correct: an exchange visitor would only be a J-1. This was kept in the schema as another check, especially for institutions that accept both students and exchange visitors.
83.	Clarification is needed in the EV CreateReason structure (which is defined uniquely as "Structure - Choice"). An element exists to identify this as a new program (NewProgram), but it is not defined as a structure and there are no fields defined to update the Program Start and End Dates for the new program. For Continue (which is listed as a structure immediately below NewProgram), you can enter a ProgramStartDate, but not the end date. For Transfer (which, like NewProgram, is not defined as a structure), you enter both the Program Start Date and the Program End Date. Logically it would seem this can be a transaction creating a record for 1) a new program, 2) a continuation, or 3) a transfer, and the start and end dates would be needed at a minimum on both the new program and transfer transactions. Can you give examples of how the create transactions for new program participants, continuing participants, and transfers are supposed to be defined in the XML? Without the regulations behind this it's very difficult to interpret what is intended here.	To clarify, the XML schema defines that the CreateReason structure contains 3 possible choices, and two required fields called ProgramStartDate and ProgramEndDate. So, no matter what issue reason is specified, the program start date and program end date are indeed required. The only choice that contains additional elements is Continue, which includes FormNumber (the original IAP66 or DS-2019 number) and ProgramStartDate (the original program start date).
84.	In the Edit Personal structure you can update some EV data fields (Position and Subject/Field Description) that are not defined initially in Create transactions. Is this correct? Also, Activity Site is no longer being defined - is that correct?	That is correct. To update information other than that listed in the Edit Personal structure, use a separate update type. The Position Code and Site of Activity fields are defined in the Create. The Create-Update exchange visitor schema will be updated before the Batch functionality is made available for program sponsors.
85.	Table W in Appendix K defines values for Program Category for exchange visitors but I don't see that being used in any transactions. Is it supposed to be defined somewhere? Are these supposed to be used for the Position values in the EditPersonal structure? If so, the table values are defined as 3 character values and Position is defined with a length of 2. Which should it be?	This field is used when creating an exchange visitor, and has been provided in the updated ICD.
86.	There are no lookup table values defined for the Matriculation element DS2019 Reprint structure for EVs. What should these be?	The Matriculation element is not part of the Reprint structure for EVs. The code required is defined in the new ICD.

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87.	When we download a file from SEVIS we might request PDF forms which would then be made available to ELS centers. If so, what is the most appropriate way to provide ELS centers with these files? Download PDF file(s) into our database and make them available to the centers? Do not download PDF file(s) and get only SEVIS IDs and update our database with them? By using their SEVIS IDs, centers could then gain access to these PDF forms and print them through the Real Time Interface.	The appropriate answer to this question really depends on your business needs. In the zip file for download, we will include both the PDF, if requested, and a transaction log with the SEVIS ID.
88.	When we received an error message - S1003, "Duplicate record found in SEVIS", Does it mean: we are trying to submit a "Record create" of student who exists in the SEVIS database and we do not know their SEVIS ID.	Yes, this scenario you described will trigger the S1003 error. If you do not know the SEVIS ID and the information is not in your school's database, then you need to go SEVIS RTI and search for the right student and the assigned SEVIS ID.
89.	We are trying to submit an update of student info and the SEVIS ID we provided does not match the SEVIS ID on the SEVIS database. What is the way to correct this situation and process the student info?	If the SEVIS ID is not valid, then you should go to SEVIS RTI and search for the student and record the student's SEVIS ID in your school's database. Once a record is created in SEVIS and a SEVIS ID is provided, if any information is inaccurate in that record, you should submit an update to correct the error.
90.	Province and Postal Codes are not used on all international addresses. I looked in the Interface Control Document and found that all three fields are marked as required for international addresses in batch transactions. Since there will not always be values for these fields, is this going to be changed?	The current schemas do not require these fields. This issue will be taken into consideration before finalizing the schemas.
91.	In looking over the list included in the Interface Control Document table, the values are not consistent with the FIPS Publ. 10-4 values I pulled off the Internet. Are the values listed in the Interface Control Document the correct values? For example, values like Azerbaijan (AJ) and Uzbekistan (UZ) are not listed in Table A, Country Codes, in the ICD. I believe these were added to FIPS in Change Notice 1 back in December 1998.	Yes, the updated country codes have been included in the ICD dated 9/20/02.

No.	QUESTION	RESPONSE
92.	How are local addresses for Canadian students living in Canada and commuting to the states for classes to be entered? There is no provision for entering a Country value on the local address.	The schema has been updated to address this. There will be an additional element to indicate if the student is a commuter student, and in that case the US address will be optional. There are two requirements (to be implemented on October 1) that deal specifically with commuter students. 1) If the student is of Canadian or Mexican citizenship (not COB), the DSO can check a box indicating that the student is a commuter student. This would over-ride the US address requirement. This requirement will effect batch as US address will be required when entering the registration information on a record being created for a continuing student or a student needing reinstatement. 2) If the student is of Canadian or Mexican citizenship, the DSO will have an option to authorize an unlimited period of less than full course.
93.	How would the INS prefer to get feedback on issues or errors that we identify in the Interface Control Document? More importantly, how can we get answers from the INS about these issues?	Any issues or questions regarding the Interface Control Document or the SEVIS Batch interface should be reported to the SEVIS Help Desk at 1-800-892-4829. Responses to issues will be posted on the INS Website.
94.	Will INS be providing Port of Entry information to schools? The current (08/08/2002 version) ICD includes Port of Entry information in an Update Student event (the POE data is usually obtained by schools at the time students check in for new terms). Is INS planning to provide schools a data file for upload with POE information as the students enter the country?	SEVIS will have an interface to the INS Ports of Entry. This interface will allow Port of Entry to be automatically updated in SEVIS and the institutions will not be required to provide this data. The option to provide this data is currently available through the Update Student event.
95.	Is it possible to create a new student in SEVIS Real-Time Interface (RTI) without requesting an I-20 or DS-2019 Form?	Yes. At the time the student or exchange visitor record is created in SEVIS RTI, the option is available for printing the I-20 or DS-2019 form, but the user may skip that process.

No.	QUESTION	RESPONSE
96.	We need to understand what the scope of J Exchange Visitor involvement is with SEVIS. To date, our understanding based on published regulations and information from the INS and Department of State, is that J Exchange Visitors included in the SEVIS system are limited to those in the Student categories only. Can you confirm if J Exchange Visitors in the following categories will also be included in data reported/entered into SEVIS by program sponsors? Trainee: Specialty Trainee: Non-Specialty Teacher Professor International Visitor Alien Physician Government Visitor Research Scholar Short-term Scholar Specialist Camp Counselor Summer/Work/Travel Au Pair	Yes, all J Exchange Visitor categories will be included in SEVIS.
97.	Will the following actions be possible in SEVIS RTI only or both the SEVIS Batch interface and SEVIS RTI? Drop below full-time study Change of address Dependents Extension Change of status Reinstatement Lost I-20	The following events may be processed by both SEVIS RTI and the SEVIS Batch interface: Drop below full-time study Change of address Add and update dependent information Request extension of program Reprint an I-20 The following events must be adjudicated and can only be completed through SEVIS RTI: Reinstatement Currently, the Change of Status process is partially performed outside of SEVIS. The I-20 required for the Change of Status process may be generated through SEVIS, either SEVIS RTI or the SEVIS Batch interface.
98.	Currently there is no option for change of status. Will this be a later development and will an I-20 form be printed to send with the application or will it be submitted electronically?	SEVIS will provide the school official with the updated I-20, which should then be mailed in with the change of status application.

No.	QUESTION	RESPONSE
99.	In the case of a student who requires reinstatement and has not been to the school previously, is the form submitted as a new student?	Yes, that is correct. When sending this information through the Batch Interface, the school should send a CreateStudent record with an Issue Reason of Reinstatement Request. In the case of a Student that is currently enrolled but has no SEVIS record, and is out of status, or in the case of a student transferring in from a non-SEVIS school that needs to be reinstated, the DSO should create a new record with an issuance reason of "reinstatement". This automatically puts the student in a status of "terminated- reinstatement pending" and places them on the District Office reinstatement list. When the DO approves the reinstatement, that person will be put into either initial or active status, depending on programs start date.
100.	What is the smallest acceptable batch (number of items)?	At least one record must be included in the batch file.
101.	What is the largest acceptable batch (number of items or size)?	The largest number of records that may be included in the batch file is 250 records.
102.	ICD Pg. 3, Is the digital certificate granted by VeriSign a 40-bit or 128-bit encryption?	The digital certificate required for the SEVIS Batch interface is a Class 1 digital certificate, 128-bit encryption.
103.	ICD Pg. 4, a batch file can contain data for only a single school/campus or program sponsor. How does this apply to ECFMG?	This is correct. In order for the SEVIS Batch interface to associate records with the appropriate school or program sponsor, each file must contain records for a single school code or program number.
104.	ICD, pg. 5, SEVIS eligibility business rules – can we get a copy of these rules?	The eligibility rules incorporated in SEVIS are based on the INS and Department of State regulations.
105.	ICD, pg. 5, The user systems request a download of the batch process results. We need a detailed description of the request process. How will this file be named?	The download process is described in detail in the ICD. The download file name will be: “schoolcode_batchid.zip”. The zipped file will contain the transaction log named, “schoolcode_batchid_transaction_log.xml”, and any requested forms in PDF format named using a randomly generated file name with a .pdf extension.
106.	ICD, Section 2.3, pg.5, The Batch interface will allow the user system to upload one or more batch data files per connection. What are the requirements for naming the upload file?	One batch data file may be uploaded per connection. This information is provided in the ICD.
107.	ICD, Section 2.3, pg. 5, the corrected data may then be resubmitted to SEVIS. Will the entire batch be rejected for any errors detected, or will only the items that have problems be rejected?	The entire batch can be rejected if the XML is not valid and individual records can receive an error if they do not meet the business rules? In the event the records receive an error during processing of the business rules, SEVIS Batch will provide an error record in the transaction log.

No.	QUESTION	RESPONSE
108.	ICD, Section 2.4, pg. 9, Record events for Exchange Visitors. Do you have a list of use cases that are supported by SEVIS for exchange visitors? Do you have a list of use cases that are not supported by SEVIS?	The SEVIS Batch interface supports the following events for J-1 exchange visitors: ▪ Create exchange visitor ▪ Create dependent ▪ Validate program participation ▪ Update biographical data ▪ Create site of activity address ▪ Delete site of activity address ▪ Update subject/field code ▪ Amend program ▪ Update financial information ▪ Update extension within maximum duration of stay ▪ Update matriculating exchange visitor ▪ Correct a minor or technical infraction ▪ Terminate exchange visitor ▪ Complete exchange visitor ▪ Terminate dependent of an exchange visitor ▪ End status for a dependent

No.	QUESTION	RESPONSE
109.	Which events does the SEVIS Batch Interface support for F-1 and M-1s?	The SEVIS Batch interface supports the following events for F/M students: • Record Create • Personal Info update • Financial Info update • Program Information update • Registration • Disciplinary Action • Defer Attendance • Program Extension • Authorized to drop below • Resumed full course of study • OPT Employment • Add CPT Employment • Off-campus Employment • Student Termination • Student completion • Add Dependent • Update Dependent

No.	QUESTION	RESPONSE
110.	Which events in SEVIS allow the user to reprint an I-20?	Listed below are the events for which a school may request an I-20 PDF file for printing purposes. • Record Create • Personal Info update • Financial Info update • Program Information update • Registration • Defer Attendance • Program Extension • Authorized to drop below • Resumed full course of study • OPT Employment (Print page 3 only) • Add CPT Employment (Print page 3 only) • Off-campus Employment (Print page 3 only) • Add Dependent • Update Dependent • Terminate Dependent • Reactivate Dependent
111.	ICD, Pg. B-2, J Eligibility Processing Errors: Error S2006 Spouse dependent already exists for this exchange visitor. How should this be resolved – remove existing spouse prior to submitting new spouse?	This error would be received if the batch requested creation of a spouse record and a spouse record for this particular exchange visitor already exists in SEVIS. If the spouse data already entered in SEVIS is the same and is correct, the resolution would be to ignore the error. If the spouse data already entered in SEVIS is not the same or is not correct, the spouse data could be deleted from SEVIS through the SEVIS Batch interface or through SEVIS RTI and the correct data could be entered using either method.

No.	QUESTION	RESPONSE
112.	When errors are received such as S2007 – Date must be in the future, or S2013 – Date must be in the past, will there be additional information provided along with these error codes to make it obvious where the error is coming from?	The data associated with each error is included in the transaction log.
113.	ICD, Appendix F: Create-Update Exchange Visitor Dependent Data Elements, Pg. F-6. Validate Participant – What is this and how is it used?	An RO or ARO should validate the program participation of an EV to indicate that the EV has properly reported and begun his/her program.
114.	ICD, Appendix F: Create-Update Exchange Visitor Dependent Data Elements, Pg. F-6. Under EDITPERSONAL, what is the purpose of the remarks field?	The remarks field is an optional text field that can be used for recording any information pertaining to the exchange visitor that the organization would like to record.
115.	ICD, Appendix F: Create-Update Exchange Visitor Data Elements, Pg. F-5. APPROVALFAILURE, How is this supposed to work?	There are 4 reasons why the Correction of Minor or Technical Infraction is used. The reasons are: • Failure to extend DS-2019 in timely manner (if done within 120 days of the program end date and the status of the EV equals "Inactive")) • Failure to conclude a transfer of program prior to end date on the current DS-2019 (therefore, the status of the EV equals "Inactive) • Failure to receive RO/ARO approval and/or amended DS-2019 before accepting an honorarium or other type of payment for engaging in a normally approvable and appropriate activity • Other – as specified by the RO/ARO The "APPROVALFAILURE" is used to indicate that the EV did not receive RO/ARO approval and/or amended DS-2019 before accepting an honorarium or other type of payment for engaging in a normally approvable and appropriate activity
116.	While some of the data elements are well defined and are easy enough to understand, some of the data elements are not. Either samples of how the XML should be filled in for various use cases should be provided, or a more detailed document needs to be provided that explains all of the rules for how to fill out the information under various circumstances.	It is important that organizations planning to develop SEVIS Batch interface applications understand the INS and Department of State regulations. Because of the number of possible scenarios, it is not possible to provide examples of each possible situation. Application developers should work closely with the International Student Offices at schools and with Program Sponsors to thoroughly understand the business rules for processing students and exchange visitor actions.